

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method of manufacturing a leaf display device made of broadleaf stems, each said broadleaf stem comprising a plurality of leaves comprising a first, topmost leaf, a second leaf adjacent said first leaf, and a third leaf adjacent said second leaf, said method comprising the steps of:
 - A. Positioning said first leaf substantially co-linearly with said broadleaf stem;
 - B. Positioning said second leaf over said first leaf;
 - C. Positioning said third leaf over said second leaf; and
 - D. Continuing this positioning process on each successive leaf progressing along said broadleaf stem away from said first leaf until all leaves desired are stacked.
2. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 1 comprising the further step of selecting which surface of each said leaf should be visible when viewed from a visible side of the stacked broadleaf stem, said visible side of said stacked broadleaf stem being a side of said broadleaf stem upon which said last leaf was stacked.
3. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 1 wherein a width of said stacked broadleaf stem is substantially equal to twice an average width of the leaves comprising said finished stacked broadleaf stem.

1 4. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 3 comprising the further step of
2 removing a top portion of said broadleaf stem as necessary to provide a single said leaf
3 emerging from a top of said stem.

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5 5. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 4 comprising the further step of
6 trimming one or more superfluous, unstacked leaves from a lower portion of said broadleaf
7 stem after said leaves have been stacked.

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9 6. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 5 comprising the further step of
10 trimming off a stem bottom from said broadleaf stem.

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12 7. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 1 comprising the further step of
13 attaching one or more of said stacked broadleaf stems to a leaf display device frame.

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15 8. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 1 using an apparatus comprising a
16 broadleaf stem holder, said broadleaf stem holder comprising a core having at least one notch
17 sized to admit one said stacked broadleaf stem, said method comprising the further step of
18 placing one said stacked broadleaf stem into at least one said notch, whereby said stacked
19 broadleaf stem is held in the stacked configuration, ready for later assembly into a leaf display
20 device.

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1 9. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 8 comprising the further step of
2 removing said stacked broadleaf stem from said stem holder and attaching said stacked
3 broadleaf stem to a leaf display device frame.

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5 10. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 8 comprising the further step of
6 placing said broadleaf stem holder on a transportation device, transporting said broadleaf stem
7 holder to a leaf display device assembly location, holder and attaching said stacked broadleaf
8 stem to a leaf display device frame.

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10 11. An apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device comprising a broadleaf stem holder
11 comprising a core having at least one notch sized to admit and hold a stacked leaf broadleaf
12 stem.

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14 12. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 11 wherein each said notch
15 comprises walls disposed at a notch angle of $12 \text{ degrees} \pm 10 \text{ degrees}$ relative to each other.

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17 13. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 11 wherein said broadleaf stem
18 holder further comprises at least one outer re-enforcement attached to said core, each said
19 outer re-enforcement having a notch corresponding to and larger than each said core notch,
20 whereby said broadleaf stem holder may be strengthened.

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22 14. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 13 further comprising at least
23 one broadleaf stem holder support having a groove sized to admit said broadleaf stem holder.

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2 15. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 14 wherein at least one said
3 broadleaf stem holder support is mounted to a table, whereby broadleaf stems may be
4 conveniently stacked and then stored in a broadleaf stem holder supported by said broadleaf
5 stem holder support.

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7 16. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 15 further comprising at least
8 one broadleaf stem holder support mounted to a transportation device, whereby stacked
9 broadleaf stems in a broadleaf stem holder supported in said broadleaf stem holder support
10 may be efficiently transported.

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12 17. An apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device comprising a broadleaf stem holder
13 comprising a recess sized to admit and hold at least one stacked broadleaf stem.

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15 18. The apparatus for manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 17 further comprising at least
16 one partition in said recess defining individual recesses, each said individual recess sized to
17 admit and hold at least one stacked broadleaf stem.

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19 19. A method of manufacturing a leaf display device comprising the steps of:

20 A. Positioning a top leaf on a broadleaf stem substantially co-linear with said broadleaf stem;

21 B. Positioning a leaf adjacent said top leaf substantially parallel to, and partially on top of said
22 top leaf;

1 C. Positioning a leaf adjacent the leaves already stacked substantially parallel to, and partially on
2 top of the previously stacked leaves; and

3 D. Repeating the previous step until all leaves desired to be stacked have been stacked.
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5 20. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 19 comprising the further step of
6 selecting which surface of each said leaf should be visible when viewed from a visible side of
7 the stacked broadleaf stem, said visible side of said stacked broadleaf stem being a side of said
8 broadleaf stem upon which said last leaf was stacked.
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10 21. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 19 wherein a width of said stacked
11 broadleaf stem is substantially equal to twice an average width of the leaves comprising said
12 finished stacked broadleaf stem.
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14 22. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 19 comprising the further step of
15 attaching one or more of said stacked broadleaf stems to a leaf display device frame.
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17 23. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 19 using an apparatus comprising
18 a broadleaf stem holder, said broadleaf stem holder comprising a core having at least one
19 notch sized to admit one said stacked broadleaf stem, said method comprising the further step
20 of placing one said stacked broadleaf stem into at least one said notch, whereby said stacked
21 broadleaf stem is held in the stacked configuration, ready for later assembly into a leaf display
22 device.
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1 24. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 23 comprising the further step of
2 removing said stacked broadleaf stem from said broadleaf stem holder and attaching said
3 stacked broadleaf stem to a leaf display device frame.

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5 25. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 23 comprising the further steps of
6 placing at least one said broadleaf stem holder on a transportation device, transporting said at
7 least one broadleaf stem holder to a leaf display device assembly location, and attaching at
8 least one said stacked broadleaf stem to a leaf display device frame.

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10 26. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 19 using an apparatus comprising
11 a broadleaf stem holder, said broadleaf stem holder comprising a recess sized to admit at least
12 one said stacked broadleaf stem, said method comprising the further step of placing one said
13 stacked broadleaf stem into said recess, whereby said stacked broadleaf stem is held in the
14 stacked configuration, ready for later assembly into a leaf display device.

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16 27. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 26 comprising the further step of
17 removing said stacked broadleaf stem from said broadleaf stem holder and attaching said
18 stacked broadleaf stem to a leaf display device frame.

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20 28. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 27 comprising the further step of
21 placing at least one said broadleaf stem holder on a transportation device, transporting said at
22 least one broadleaf stem holder to a leaf display device assembly location, and attaching at
23 least one said stacked broadleaf stem to a leaf display device frame.

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2 29. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 22 comprising the further step of
3 placing a leaf display device inverted in a drying area, drying for three days at a temperature
4 substantially equal to $85 - 90$ degrees F ± 5 degrees and a relative humidity equal to $30\% \pm$
5 10% , and then turning the leaf display device right side up for an additional day of drying
6 under the same conditions.

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8 30. The method of manufacturing a leaf display device of claim 22 comprising the further step of
9 placing a leaf display device in a drying area, placing a stiff sheet over said leaf display device,
10 placing a weight equal to 1 pound $\pm .5$ pound on said stiff sheet, and drying for three days at a
11 temperature substantially equal to $85 - 90$ degrees ± 5 degrees F and a relative humidity equal
12 to $30\% \pm 10\%$.